

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 18-45 are pending in this application. Claims 18-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 5,625,757 to Kageyama et al. (herein "Kageyama") in view of U.S. patent 5,603,060 to Weinberger et al. (herein "Weinberger"). Claims 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 31, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 5,768,516 to Sugishima in view of Weinberger. Claims 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sugishima in view of Weinberger as applied to claims 18 and 26, and further in view of U.S. patent 5,991,846 to Ooki. Claims 34-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kageyama in view of Weinberger. Claims 34, 36, 37, 39, 40, 42, 43, and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sugishima in view of Weinberger. Claims 35, 38, 41, and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sugishima in view of Weinberger as applied to claims 34, 37, 40, and 43, and further in view of Ooki.

Addressing now each of the outstanding rejections, each of the outstanding rejections is traversed by the present response.

Initially, applicants note each of the claims is amended by the present response to clarify features recited therein. Specifically, independent claim 1 now recites that the computer includes a "print data generating unit configured to generate print data". Independent claim 1 now also clarifies that the "print data generated by the print data generating unit" is sent to the selected one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses. Independent claim 26 is similarly amended as in independent claim 1. Further, each of independent claims 34, 37, 40, and 43 is amended by the present response to clarify that

“print data” is also sent from the client computer. The above-noted features are believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art.

Each of the outstanding rejections relies upon the teachings in Weinberger, which is set forth as the primary reference for each of the rejections.

Applicants first note that in maintaining the outstanding rejections the outstanding Office Action cites teachings in Weinberger directed to a key operator being able to remotely send key stroke commands.¹

The claims are amended by the present response to clarify that the computer that is sending the print instruction in the claimed invention is the same computer that generates print data to be printed out on a selected image forming apparatus. That is, in the claimed invention a print instruction is executed when a user desires to print a document, for example text, and/or graphics, which the user created. When the print instruction is executed, the document as well as the print instruction are transmitted from the computer to a selected image forming apparatus, and thereby the document can be printed.

Applicants submit the noted teachings in Weinberger are not at all even relevant to the features clarified in the claims. That is, Weinberger does not disclose or suggest that any key strokes from the remote location accompany *print data* to be printed. Instead, in Weinberger the remote location provides a monitoring operation but does not provide the actual print data to be printed.

The above-noted claim amendments are believed to clarify distinctions between the claimed invention and the teachings in the applied art, and particularly the teachings in Weinberger that disclose a system “that allows a user to access a functional replica of the operation panel of copiers from a remote location, wherein a copy of the control panel

¹ Office Action of July 20, 2002, page 12, prenumbered paragraph 13.

information is maintained at a data collection computer (which reads on a server) (16) (column 3, lines 24-54)".²

However, in that respect applicants note Weinberger does not teach or suggest that a user from a remote location can input **print data** and a print instruction to execute a printing operation.

That is, in the claimed system the operator can send print data and enter a print command while monitoring information items of the printer on a network. Weinberger, however, is not directed to a device with such an operation.

More particularly, Weinberger is directed to a remote monitoring system of a copying machine in which an operator at a central data collection point 4 can guide an operation to a client at a user site by seeing an operation panel of the copying machine on the computer 16. In Weinberger, the client at the user site is the one that generates the print data. That is, in Weinberger the remote monitoring system does not generate the print data. That operation in Weinberger is in contrast to the amended claims that now recite that the computer that can view the various printer displays is the same computer that generates print data.

Weinberger specifically notes at column 13, lines 40-49 that allowing a remote key operator to view an actual representation of any copier 2 "allows an experienced person to view actual machine conditions first hand and also allows them to guide a less experienced individual at the remote machine site",³ and provides the additional benefit "that a person in a totally separate facility or town via a modem telephone link can view the actual status panel of a copier 2 to suggest possible solutions to a problem".⁴ As clear from the above description, Weinberger does not disclose or suggest that the operator at the remote site can input print data and a print instruction to thereby have one of the copiers print the print data. Thus, Weinberger is not related to an apparatus that can transmit print data and a print

² Office Action of July 20, 2004, page 3, lines 8-11.

³ Weinberger specifically at column 13, lines 42-45.

⁴ Weinberger specifically at column 13, lines 46-49.

instruction from the noted operator over a network, as in Weinberger the noted operator does not enter print data to be directed to a copier at a user site.

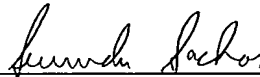
In such ways, applicants respectfully submit that no combination of teachings of Kageyama in view of Weinberger fully meets the limitations now clarified in each of the pending claims.

Further, no teachings in any of the further cited references are believed to overcome the above-noted deficiencies of Kageyama in view of Weinberger.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423
Attorneys of Record

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
SNS:smi

I:\ATTY\SNS\0557\05574730\05574730-AM DUE 102004.DOC